

imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

Celebrate Family Literacy on January 27

Wednesday, January 27, 1999 has been declared the first ever **Family Literacy Day** in Canada.

Honda Canada, in partnership with ABC CANADA, is leading a nation-wide advocacy campaign to promote awareness of family literacy.

The declaration of Family Literacy Day on January 27, and the presentation by Honda of a one-hour BCTV television special that evening, are highlights of the campaign.

Turn on your TV at 8:00 p.m. on January 27 to watch **Penny's Odyssey**, an original drama/adventure written especially for Family Literacy Day. The show targets families, particularly those with children aged four to ten.

Honda has also developed an innovative car and van activity kit for children. The kit contains games, books and other materials designed to keep kids (and parents)

occupied during long trips. The kits are being distributed by Honda dealers across the country.

Honda will raise thousands of dollars to support family literacy in Canada. ABC CANADA will facilitate distribution of the funds.



FAMILY LITERACY
DAY

Notice something different?

*We're starting the new year with a new look — and a new name — for our newsletter. The design of **Imprints** is courtesy of The Insight Group.*

***Imprints** will continue to bring you the literacy news in B.C. and Canada. We publish four full-length, and two shorter, versions of the newsletter every year.*

Let us know what you think! Call or email us with your response to the new newsletter. We'll publish a selection of your comments in our next issue.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll-free in B.C.
Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca



IN THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight on Family Literacy:

...In the East Kootenays

...In the Okanagan

...In the West Kootenays

**Don't forget to
watch Penny's
Odyssey on BCTV
January 27, 8:00 p.m.**

In addition to the drama, the show contains eight one-minute information segments which will explore family literacy and offer viewers tips on making their home "literacy-friendly". The segments will be broadcast as public service announcements after January 27.

HONDA

ABC
CANADA

Celebrating Family Literacy Day in Your Community

Honda dealers in B.C. will participate in Family Literacy Day, along with family literacy groups across the province.

ABC CANADA has developed a number of public awareness materials to help you celebrate and promote Family Literacy Day. The materials include posters, buttons and bookmarks as well as ideas for promotional events and activities.

We'll let you know in early January how you can obtain these materials and contact your local Honda dealers.



**FAMILY LITERACY
DAY**

Family Literacy Programs Receive Canada Post Stamp Funds

Congratulations to 25 family literacy programs across B.C. ! These programs have received funds raised by Canada Post from sales of its special family literacy stamp.

Last year, ABC CANADA and Canada Post partnered to raise funds for family literacy by creating and marketing a special family literacy postage stamp. Five cents from the sale of each stamp was set aside for distribution to family literacy

programs across Canada. The total funds raised were divided among the provinces and territories based on a per capita formula.

To be eligible, programs had to be non-profit, provide a separate and distinct family literacy program or service, and in operation for at least one year.

In B.C., each program that applied for funds and met all the criteria received \$800.

For more information on this and other family literacy initiatives, contact Jean Rasmussen, Provincial Family Literacy Project Coordinator at 1-800-663-1293.

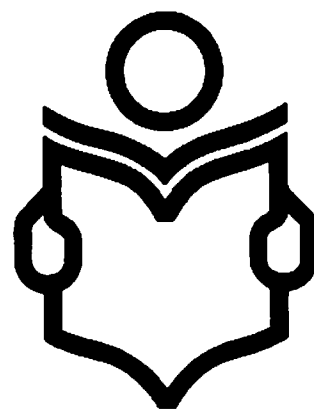


ABC
CANADA



What is Family Literacy?

- Family literacy refers to the way parents, children and extended family members use literacy at home and in their community.
- Family literacy occurs naturally during the routines of daily living, and helps adults and children “get things done”.
- Often, literacy activities take place at home, but some parents may need support to provide the bridging activities that prepare children for school.
- Family literacy programs focus on parent and child. The programs are intended to improve the literacy skills of parents and children, based on the assumption that improving the literacy skills of parents results in better educational experiences for them and their children.



***Families Learning
Together***

Some Facts about Family Literacy

- Educational researchers have demonstrated that a child's progress in school is clearly related to his or her parents' literacy.
- The literacy link between parent and child has to do with the role parents play in helping their children learn to read.
- Children raised in literate households are likely to enter grade one with several thousand hours of one-to-one pre-reading experience behind them.
- Research shows there is a better chance of a child becoming a fully literate adult if reading is encouraged in the home. Children who grow up where there are books and readers become readers.
- Family literacy programs are critical to the prevention of adult literacy problems. Programs help parents and other caregivers improve the skills they need to support their children's learning. A 1995 International Adult Literacy Survey found that 42% of adult Canadians have some difficulty with reading.
- Children living with adults who have limited literacy skills, or in homes where reading and writing are not part of everyday life, are at risk of poor achievement in school.

The Vancouver Grizzlies Spinoza Bear

Grizzlies Spinoza Bear, a talking teddy bear, is designed to encourage children to enjoy reading. This year, Spinoza Bear will participate in Literacy BC's family literacy initiative. Over 50 Grizzlies Spinoza Bears will be sent to family literacy groups around the province to be used with parent and pre-schooler reading programs.

Spinoza will be used to encourage the children and their families to read along using a tape recorder inside Spinoza's tummy which plays cassette tapes focused on storytelling and reading. The soothing and therapeutic voice appeals to a child's imaginative and emotional needs.

A large poster and wall chart of “Super Grizz,” the Grizzlies mascot, will accompany Spinoza. The “Grizz Reading Challenge” is part of the Grizzlies Read to Succeed, an in-class reading incentive program for grades 1-4 that runs February and March each school year.

A warm and special thank you to the Grizzlies Foundation for this generous support to family literacy in B.C.

Thoughts on Family Literacy

by Barbara Bate, Family Literacy Consultant

Prior to 1996, B.C. lagged in family literacy activity compared to the other western provinces. In the last two years that picture has changed dramatically. With over 20 cost-shared projects and numerous other forms of family related activity, family literacy is finally a part of the BC literacy landscape. The major challenge we face now is keeping the current level of family literacy programming while continuing to develop new programs. This is not a simple task, but it is one which we must face together as a province.

Current growth in family literacy is due largely to the efforts of the regional coordinators who work together with their colleges, and with Literacy BC to bring family literacy to their communities. Because of their belief in family literacy, and expertise at developing community partnerships, family literacy programs have sprung up throughout the

province. Most family literacy programs now have their own coordinators.

With Jean Rasmussen of Literacy BC as the Provincial Family Literacy Project Coordinator, a family literacy team is in place from the provincial to regional to community levels. To make family literacy a permanent part of B.C.'s literacy activity, this team needs an infrastructure which provides some level of financial support. Without it, energy and commitment would eventually wane, and gains made to date lost.

There are a number of ideas to explore. One idea might be to

organize "Friends of Family Literacy" groups. The purpose of the groups at the provincial, regional and community levels would be to support family literacy programs. Group membership could be an interesting question. Enlisting the support of community members — people new to family literacy — is a possibility. Since family literacy partners and people in government positions are faced with their own priorities, attracting a new group to family literacy may have merit...something to think about. We shall continue to work toward ensuring a future for family literacy. We have come this far...

Literacy BC Supports Family Literacy Development in B.C.

Literacy BC has taken a leading role in the development of family literacy in B.C. by providing support and consultation to family literacy initiatives and programs.

Among the services we provide are:

- Training for existing and new family literacy program practitioners.
- Consultation on program development.
- Support for a growing network of practitioners, volunteers, and agencies involved in family literacy.
- A family literacy electronic conference.
- A lending library of exemplary family literacy materials and multi-media resources.
- A directory of family literacy programs in B.C.
- Public awareness and leadership in promoting family literacy.

Starbucks Coffee Company

*will also join in celebrating
Family Literacy Day in B.C.*

More details to come...

Spotlight on Family Literacy in the Regions

East Kootenays...Okanagan...West Kootenays

Family literacy has come a long way in B.C. during the past few years. In this issue of the newsletter, we highlight exciting family literacy initiatives in three regions of B.C. — East Kootenays, Okanagan and West Kootenays (Selkirk).

Family Literacy in the East Kootenays...

The Community Development Approach

The following is based on an interview with Leona Gadsby, Regional Literacy Coordinator for the East Kootenay region.

Family literacy in the East Kootenays flourishes in a region characterized by small communities in a resource-based economy — mainly forestry, ranching and tourism. This mix, combined with the decaying forest industry, says Leona, means “there is a fair amount of poverty in beautiful country — wealthy people living in rich-looking communities, with underlying poverty.”

As a result, there are not enough social programs to serve the population, and “a clear and obvious need” for family literacy. In particular, there are not enough pre-school kinds of programs, and parental training programs.

“The smallness of the communities and the relatively small resource base to draw from meant that family literacy could clearly take on a larger role in community development.”

When putting together the proposal to develop the current cost-shared project to serve the whole East Kootenay region, a range of people, — family resource centre and social services workers, early childhood

educators, teachers, even probation officers — came together to form five advisory committees.

“These people had known for years that they needed to work towards family literacy,” says Leona, “and the project became a catalyst.”

Now more than 25 groups and agencies are collaborating partners in the current **Family Literacy in the East Kootenays** project.

Five family literacy coordinators from diverse backgrounds were hired in each community — Cranbrook, Creston, Invermere, Kimberley and Golden. Though inexperienced in family literacy at first (they had backgrounds as teachers, social workers and community service workers) their interest and expertise grew to the point where they are now training more people to work in the field.

“We now have more than a dozen people doing family literacy work — it makes a significant difference.” says Leona. “The more they were surprised and excited about the

ramifications, the more they wanted to take part.”

All the current programs run at full capacity — for instance, the **Golden Family Literacy Program** is full at ten families, and Invermere’s **Parents Reading, Children Succeeding** program has eight to ten families. Most programs serve mothers with pre-school children, some programs are for two to five year olds, and others are infant programs for mothers and babies up to age two.

Workshops in Creston and Invermere are offered to families who already attend a variety of existing community programs. For example, in Creston, the project is linked with a Young Parents Group (the parents range in age from 14 to 21), and in Invermere with a group called **Baby Talk**.

Cranbrook’s **Stone Soup Literacy** is a good example of a program that is really tied to community development, says Leona. The innovative project combines family

Continued on page 6...

Family Literacy in the East Kootenays (cont'd...)

literacy with the solid concept of feeding people.

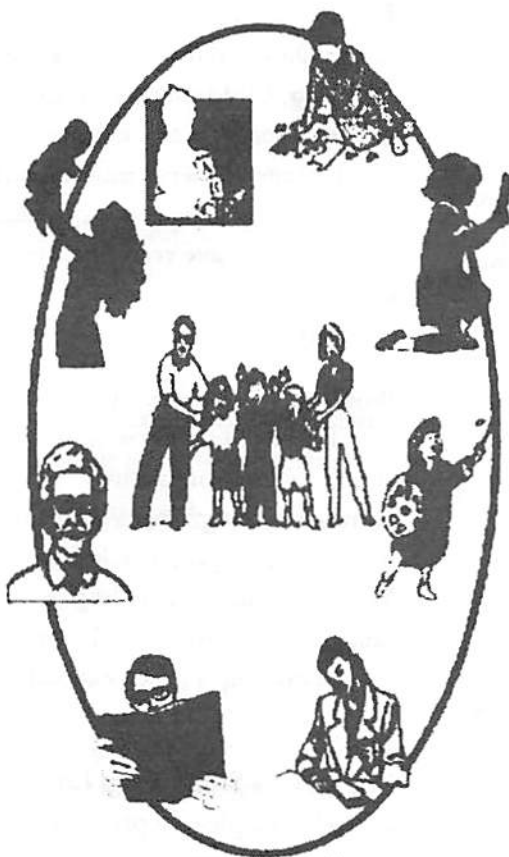
In **Stone Soup**, families are brought together to plan and prepare an evening meal. Nutrition, recipes, budgeting, measurement and cost comparisons are part of the program, along with pre-meal parent and child literacy activities. Some of the food prepared and presented was not familiar to all of the children,

says Leona. For instance, "salad was new to some of these kids."

The family coordinators in East Kootenay have developed their own business cards and brochures tailored to each program. The brochure contains local contact information, the local college number, and the Literacy BC toll-free number. It is distributed throughout the region to family centres, women's centres, and social

services and public health offices. They also have a regional website, the Creston Family Literacy Home Page at: www.crestonbc.com/literacy.

The idea behind the regional look, says Leona, is instant recognition for family literacy. "Because people move around a lot here — they can recognize family literacy services wherever they go."



*Illustration from the East Kootenay
region Family Literacy brochure*

For information on family literacy in the
East Kootenay region, contact:

Leona Gadsby,
Regional Literacy Coordinator
General Delivery
Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0
Phone: (250)342-3210
Fax: (250) 342-9221
Email: lgadsby@rockies.net

Family Literacy in the Okanagan...

The Strength of Diversity

The following is based on an interview with Maureen Stephens, Regional Literacy Coordinator for the Okanagan.

Maureen's role is to act as a regional resource person, an information source those working in family literacy in the Okanagan can tap into when needed.

"My job as regional coordinator is to be an information person, a conduit," says Maureen. "I arrange meetings, set up dialogue, and help with applications for funding." For example, in November she organized a Family Literacy Information Workshop at the Kelowna Art Gallery which brought together representatives from all the projects in the region. Jean Rasmussen, Provincial Family Literacy Project Coordinator, provided the provincial perspective, which was very welcome, says Maureen, especially by the people from the smaller, rural communities.

"They got the bigger picture, felt they were part of a big, provincially-recognized program. For us, it was an opportunity to find out what people wanted."

Each family literacy program in the Okanagan is quite distinct and has different strengths. Maureen cites the program, **Family & Community Growing Together**, in Celista, "one hour's drive on a bumpy road north of Salmon Arm". The program is aimed at parents and children living in the rural isolated area of the local elementary school. Together,

they participate in workshops on computers and the Internet, library research, putting together a science project, writing, numeracy, homework and study skills. So far, about 50 families have been contacted.

"The strength here is that their project assistant is an ABE student. She lives in the community and has children in the local school. Because of her understanding, and connections, she's really able to bring in the parents."

By contrast, Kelowna's program, **Come and Read with Me**, is very mobile. For instance, the first sessions were held in the downtown public library but will move to an inner city primary school during January and February, and expand to evening sessions at a community school

outside Kelowna later this year. "This program is very flexible with times and location. It goes to where the parents are."

In Penticton, a **Cooperative Family Reading** program is underway, partnered by the Penticton Public Library and Community Resources Society. A children's librarian and a children's programmer have been recruited to facilitate the children's sessions.

This year the Penticton program will expand to involve the local museum. Parents and children will improve their reading and writing skills by using articles in the museum's permanent collection, such as heritage musical instruments, ancient cooking

Continued on page 8...

The Co-operators show their support

The Co-operators, a national company that has generously supported literacy in the past, recently donated 400 used computers to literacy groups across Canada, including 46 in B.C. During December, we were able to notify dozens of B.C. literacy groups and organizations about this wonderful offer, and give a computer to all those who applied and met the criteria.

On behalf of all recipients,

THANK-YOU TO THE CO-OPERATORS for this generous gift.

Family Literacy in the Okanagan (cont'd...)

devices and games, and transportation artifacts. It will also expand to Saturdays for families who can not participate during the week.

"This program is particularly strong because of the community partnerships there," says Maureen. "Their strength is in having very well-stocked facilities. The community has really bought in big to family literacy, and

the partners take a very active role."

Maureen will be very active this month leading up to January 27, Family Literacy Day. She is organizing a radio interview in Kelowna to stimulate interest, and is looking for other media opportunities to play up the event. The programs in the region are arranging their own public awareness, while Maureen

coordinates the regional effort.

She says the rewards of the burgeoning interest in family literacy make it worthwhile. "The rich diversity of the people working in literacy now has broadened the perspective so much. We have librarians, community workers, adult educators, social service agencies — they have really brought a richness and wealth to what we're doing."

For information on family literacy in the Okanagan region, contact:

**Maureen Stephens
Regional Literacy Coordinator
Okanagan University College
1000 K.L.O Road
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 4X8**

Phone: (250) 862-5488 Ext. 4244

Fax: (250) 862-5432

email: mstephens@silk.net

Family Literacy in the West Kootenays...

Building Partnerships

The following is based on an interview with Jennifer Cliff-Marks, Regional Literacy Coordinator for the West Kootenay (Selkirk) region.

Family literacy in the West Kootenay region of B.C. is mushrooming. Jennifer says the Selkirk region is fortunate to have strong, active partners dedicated to initiating and sustaining family literacy programs.

The region has family literacy coordinators in six communities — Castlegar, Grand Forks, Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver and Trail. Much of the family literacy activity takes place under the umbrella of a single literacy cost-shared project called **Community Planning and Piloting for Family Literacy**. The project was created to identify existing community services, examine family literacy models and develop new programs in partnership with community agencies.

But, as Jennifer points out, much of this work has been going on for the past two years, as coordinators in each centre have reached out to their communities to create successful partnerships.

"The population here has very young demographics," she explains, "a lot of learners were coming to local literacy programs with the goal of reading to their children. When Barbara Bate gave a family literacy workshop in the region, it created an avalanche of interest."

One of the earliest programs to get underway was in New Denver — **Learning Adventures For Families (LAFF)**. The New Denver LAFF

Program now attracts upwards of 30 people for a two hour session on Tuesday nights — proof of its popularity in this small community. The LAFF program is continuing there this year and has also expanded to Nakusp. Similar programs — combining parents with children in a learning environment — are being planned in Castlegar, Nelson and Trail.

"That's what's most exciting about this work," says Jennifer, "the whole aspect of community development. As soon as you put the word *family* in front of the word, *literacy*, people are excited. They want to get involved." Partners in all regions represent local libraries, community centres, Community Services, Public Health Units and Skills Centres, to name a few.

Another reason for the strength of family literacy in the region is the "very strong board" behind Project Literacy West Kootenay (PLWK), which guides and supports the group and provides a stable infrastructure. PLWK advisory committees in each community — made up of librarians, high school counsellors, teachers, parents, community and social service workers and others — also provide input.

As Regional Coordinator, Jennifer oversees the work of the six family literacy coordinators, all of whom have participated in the field for years. They have all taken professional

development and workshops — Mother Goose training and courses at the Literacy B.C. 1998 Summer Literacy Institute, for example.

"We have six brilliant, well-trained women experienced in literacy and family literacy — a really good resource group," says Jennifer. The group also stays close and well-connected — they conference together on the Selkirk College First Class electronic system and meet in person every six to eight weeks.

Jennifer is optimistic about the future of family literacy in the West Kootenays. "Because of the work that's already behind us, we'll be adding on to services that are already happening."

For information on family literacy in the Selkirk region, contact:

Jennifer Cliff-Marks
Regional Literacy
Coordinator
Box 923

Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0

Phone: (250) 265-4077 (college)

(250) 265-4193 (home)

Fax: (home) (250) 265-4195

email:

jcliff-marks@hubcap.mlnet.com

What's new in FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES at Literacy B.C.

Family Connections: 1998 Directory of Family Literacy Projects Across Canada

*Edited by Adele Thomas, Sharon Skage,
Ronna Jackson*

This Directory provides, in both French and English, an overview of ongoing family literacy initiatives across the country. Summaries of individual projects, listed by province, include details on resources for practitioners and learners. Project descriptions also contain contact information to facilitate practitioner networking. There are separate listings for national organizations that have developed family literacy initiatives.

Family Literacy in Canada: Profiles of Effective Practices (1998)

Edited by Adele Thomas

This volume brings together a sample of family literacy programs which represents the range of family literacy approaches in different communities across Canada. It is written by practitioners who have been closely involved in the establishment and maintenance of family literacy programs. These practitioners analyze and reflect on the community context for family literacy, the obstacles faced, and suggest strategies for maintaining family literacy programs.

Also included is a chapter which addresses some of the broader issues faced by family literacy practitioners, including relevant historical background on the family literacy movement, definitions of family literacy, and research on families and literacy and family literacy intervention.



How to obtain your copies:

Limited copies are available
from Literacy BC
Phone 1-800-663-1293
Email:
literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

View both publications
on-line at the National Adult
Literacy Database web-site:
www.nald.ca

Order a hard copy from:

Brock University Bookstore
500 Glenridge Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2S 3A1
Phone: (905) 688-5550
Ext. 4402



Did you know that Literacy B.C. has close to 100 family literacy resource materials that you can borrow? Here's a sample.

The Virtues Guide: A Family Handbook (1995)

Linda Kavelin Popov, Dan Popov, John Kavelin

**Assertiveness...creativity...
enthusiasm...forgiveness...
gentleness...honesty...justice...
loyalty...purposefulness...respect...
steadfastness...tact...unity...**

These and 39 other virtues are featured in this guide for parents. A key principle of the book is that parents are the first educators — the people best able to impart values and virtues to their children, and to meet their children's spiritual needs.

The book does not promote any particular religion but is based on the simple principles of spiritual growth found in many faiths.

The Virtues Guide offers information, examples, and exercises about the principles of spiritual parenting; suggestions and ideas on how to use the Virtues with your family, and instructions on how to hold a family night; and descriptions of each of the 52 Virtues.

Borrow from Literacy BC or order from:

**Unity Arts Inc.
26 Concourse Gate
Nepean, Ontario
K2E 7T7
Order Desk: 1-800-465-3287
Fax: (613) 727-3704**

hand in hand, helping your child grow *Perinatal Literature in Plain Language (1997)*

This handy, plain language manual is designed for new Canadians, teen parents, and adults with low literacy skills.

The manual covers pre-natal information, labour and delivery, caring for newborns, and caring for children up to two years of age.

hand in hand has been reprinted by the National Literacy Secretariat. Phone Literacy BC for your copies at 1-800-663-1293.

We'll charge you shipping and handling only.

Many Families, Many Literacies, An International Declaration of Principles

Edited by Denny Taylor

No single, narrow definition of "family literacy" can do justice to the richness and complexity of families, and the multiple literacies, including the often unrecognized local literacies, that are part of their everyday lives. — from the Preamble

What are the ethical issues and human rights concerns in family literacy? This collection of articles - the product of an international forum on family literacy in 1994 - features the opinions of international education experts and family literacy practitioners, together with those of families participating in literacy programs. Topics include: principles about families; principles about language and literacy; ethical principles about family literacy research and program development; pedagogical principles about families and literacy programs; principles for the assessment of family literacy programs; principles for educators and funding agencies; principles for policy makers.

***Borrow from Literacy BC or order from:
Irwin Publishing,***

***1800 Steeles Avenue West, Concord, Ontario L4K 2P3
Phone 1-800-263-7824 toll-free***

The Literacy BC Resource Centre - New Materials

Voice Activated Software: A Comparison of Current Products *Literacy Technologies Series, Number 1* June 1998 Draft Learners Advisory Network

This is the first in a series of reports about technology for adult literacy learners prepared by the Learners Advisory Network of the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL). Members of the Network researched voice related software products that could help adult learners enhance their learning experience and improve their literacy skills. Three types of software were researched:

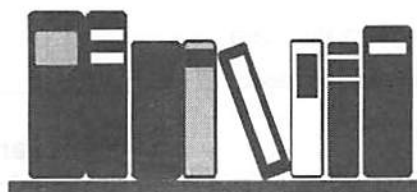
- text to speech software in which the computer reads documents to the user
- computer screen readers that say the commands out loud as they are typed into a keyboard
- speech to text or voice recognition in which the user can tell the computer what to write and the computer will type what you say

The Network produced a Fact Sheet that lists over 20 voice-activated software products, the companies that produce the software, the computer requirements, the Canadian price, and the Internet address where you can preview the software, if available.

The Literacy Celebration Singers At the Crossroads (cassette tape) *Music by: The Mercers*

In this audiocassette adult learners sing songs they have written about their learning and cultural experiences. The cassette was produced by the Baie Verte Peninsula Economic Development Association in Baie Verte, Newfoundland.

**Order from
Baie Verte Peninsula Economic Development Association
P.O. Box 122
Baie Verte, NF A0K 1B0
Phone: (709) 532-8090
Fax: (709) 532-4166**



Basic Skills for Living *Learning About Money (video and handbook)* Manitoba Association of Home Economics

This 30-minute video shows real people in a variety of settings managing their money. It focusses on three aspects of money-handling skills that are needed daily: banking, drawing up a spending plan, and credit.

The video is designed so that learners become actively involved with "real life" money skills. It emphasizes learning better money habits and transferring them to your own situation.

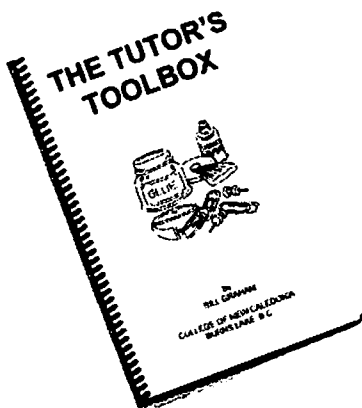
The video is accompanied by an educational handbook for instructors on how use the video with learners.

**Send cheque or money order for \$35 plus \$10 shipping/handling to:
Basic Skills for Living Project
MAHE - Winnipeg Branch
Box 1894
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R2
Phone: (204) 257-9632**

The Literacy BC Resource Centre - New Materials

THE TUTOR'S TOOLBOX is back!

We have reprinted this popular tutor guide. Yours for the cost of shipping and handling. Call us at 1-800-663-1293 for your copies.



Reaching the Rainbow: Aboriginal Literacy in Canada Parkland Regional College

A multi-media kit intended as a starting point when planning to set up an Aboriginal literacy program, or when considering adding Aboriginal literacy as a component to complement existing programs.

The manual covers different types of literacy, including mother tongue literacy, oral literacy, literacy of symbolism, literacy using technology, spiritual literacy, and holistic literacy. The video showcases different types of Aboriginal literacy programs across Canada.

Order from:

**Parkland Regional College
72 Melrose Avenue
Yorkton, Saskatchewan
S3N 1Z2
Phone: (306) 786-2589
Fax: (306) 786-7866**

**Cost: \$55 including shipping,
handling and tax.**

The Sea & Me Manual (1998) Shelburne County Learning Network

This is a collection of rural-themed stories, poems and accompanying exercises for adult learners. The main idea behind the creation of this manual was to provide materials that would be of interest to adult learners living in rural areas. The manual "is a celebration of some of the things people living in rural areas like Shelburne County hold near and dear to their hearts. But although the stories found within have a Nova Scotian flavour, we hope they will be of interest to people living in other areas of Canada as well." Topics include: black loyalist history, native history, rural ABC's, seasons, Acadian culture, pets in the country.

Order from:

**Shelburne County Learning
Network
P.O. Box 209
Shelburne, N.S.
B0T 1W0
Phone: (902) 875-4272
Fax: (902) 875-1292**

**All resources
reviewed here are available on loan
from Literacy BC
1-800-663-1293**



Current Events

Welcome Chris

Chris Dodge is the new **Director of the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada.**

Chris has extensive experience within the public service of Canada. For the past seven years, Chris has been with the Treasury Board of Canada, and has also worked in the federal Departments of Indian and Northern Affairs, External Affairs and Finance.

Chris began her new position on November 2, 1998.



...and Chris

ABC CANADA is pleased to announce that **Christine Featherstone** is the organization's new Executive Director.

Chris comes to ABC CANADA from The Girl Guides of Canada, where she was the National Executive Director for five years. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director of the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario. She has also held other senior positions with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the YWCA of Canada and the YMCA of Metro Toronto.

Her position becomes effective January 4, 1999.



CACE Course Starts in January!

Teaching Literacy Skills to Adults, an elective course in the Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) program, is scheduled for distance education delivery in January. Select either teleconferencing or webconferencing to enhance your learning with instructor Audrey Thomas, and other participants in your class. This course is open to non-CACE students.

Course Description:
Develop an overview of the scope of adult literacy in Canada and the activities undertaken by community, voluntary, and government organizations to address the problem. Examine the principles, methods, and materials used to teach literacy skills to adults. Learn the strategies for planning literacy activities and how to evaluate resource material.

For further information and registration, contact:

Diane Anderson,
Program Coordinator
Phone: (250) 721-7860
University of Victoria
Fax: (250) 721-6603

E-mail:

danderson@uvcs.uvic.ca/csie/cace

Please visit the CACE Web site:
www.uvcs.uvic.ca/csie/cace/



Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have donated \$100 or more to Literacy BC

Judi Angel
DPI Digital People Inc.
Mary Graham
Mike Harling
David Merrifield

MicroComputers & Graphics
Steven Mechem
Reva Potashin
The Stewart Fund
Audrey Thomas

The Employees of Business in Vancouver

A special thanks to the Globe & Mail for collecting donations for Literacy BC at the annual Word on the Street Festival at Library Square in Vancouver on September 27.

And to those who have contributed up to \$100

Melanie Austin, Joan Rhodes, Keith Hale, Lois Arber, Bernice French, Beverley Nann, Bruce Alexander, Alan Tremayne
Trudy Archie, Marrett Green, Andrea Comeau, Margaret Raymond, K. Ireland,
Jackie Walker, Trish Harrison, The Hydrecs Fund

A warm and special thank you to all who made contributions to Literacy BC through "The Great Walk". Heike Roth, a Vancouver City Hall employee, participated in a 40 kilometre marathon walk on Vancouver Island, sponsored by some of her colleagues at City Hall, and other friends. These wonderful people donated the proceeds to us.

Patricia Ann French, Douglas Mathew, Susan Anderson, Michael White, Randy Pecarski, Ronda Howard, Neil Bailey, Peter Burch, Sandy James, Boyd McBride, Nancy Nolan, Gael Arthur, Bridget Trousdell, Scott McBride & Heike Roth

THANK YOU!

We would like to express special appreciation to 7-Eleven Canada. 7-Eleven promoted literacy and Literacy BC across the province with a special campaign asking customers to donate change at counter coin boxes. More than \$5000 was raised through this promotion. This generous donation has helped us to reach the many adults in B.C. who need and want to improve their literacy skills.



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Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is designed to help low-income individuals with straight-forward tax situations complete their income tax return, free of charge. The program has been sponsored by Revenue Canada for the past 28 years.

Individuals and representatives from various organizations across Canada donate their time to help others in their communities. Through the dedication of these volunteers, thousands of Canadians understand and meet their tax obligations, and receive their tax credits on time.

Last filing season, in B.C. and the Yukon, more than 2,000 volunteers helped

nearly 48,000 people complete their tax returns. In total, across Canada, nearly 16,000 volunteers helped more than 352,000 Canadians.

Volunteers work with community agencies to establish tax clinics in public libraries, community centres, schools, churches, seniors' residences, nursing homes and other central locations. Arrangements can be made for in-home visits for those who are unable to travel.

Revenue Canada's free training sessions teach volunteers how to complete basic income tax returns. Volunteers are also provided with a kit of handy references and working material. Training sessions are underway now.

For more information contact:

Julie Spencer

Coordinator - Pacific Region

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Phone: (250) 492-9268 (outside Penticton, call collect)

NOTICE...

The 1999-2000 literacy cost-shared fund application packages and guidelines are ready and have been distributed to the literacy field. If you need a package and have not received one, call Literacy BC at 1-800-663-1293 and we'll get one out to you.

To download the applications from the Ministry website, the address is:

<http://www.aett.gov.bc.ca/literacy/form-toc.htm>



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